

Remarks

The Advisory Action mailed May 18, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-3 and 5-28 are pending in this application. Claim 1 stands rejected. Claims 2-12 stand objected to. Claims 13-28 are allowed. Claim 4 is canceled.

In addition, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Final Office Action dated February 10, 2004 for the above-identified patent application from May 10, 2004, through and including June 10, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Vallot (U.S. Patent No. 6,498,996) is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4, indicated by the Office as being allowable. For these reasons, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Vallot, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

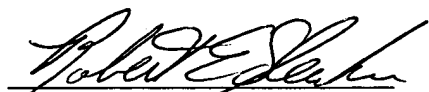
The objection to Claims 2-12 is respectfully traversed. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 2, 3, and 5-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1 which is herein submitted to be patentable. For the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests that the objection to Claims 2-12 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Slenker", written over a horizontal line.

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